

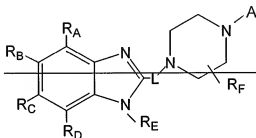
## Amendments to the claims marked-up version

Claims 90-102 are pending. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are rejected. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are cancelled. Claims 92, 93, 96, 97, 100, 101 and 102 are amended.

The following list of claims will replace prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1, – 89. Cancelled

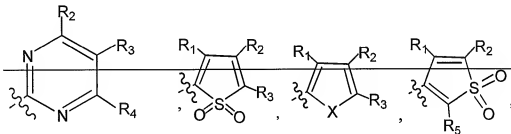
90. (Cancelled) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or amide thereof, wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of



X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

L is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_4$  and  $\text{R}_5$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl carbonyl, alkyl carbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro,  $\text{NZ}_1\text{Z}_2$

and  $(NZ_1Z_2)$ carbonyl wherein  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl and formyl;

$R_A$ ,  $R_B$ ,  $R_C$  and  $R_D$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro,  $(NZ_1Z_2)$ carbonyl and  $(NZ_1Z_2)$ carbonyl;

$R_E$  is hydrogen; and

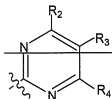
$R_F$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

91. (Cancelled) The compound according to claim 90 wherein

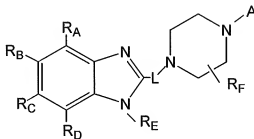
$R_A$ ,  $R_B$ ,  $R_C$  and  $R_D$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

A is



92. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

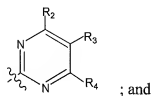
wherein

$R_A$ ,  $R_B$ ,  $R_C$  and  $R_D$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

R<sub>F</sub> and R<sub>E</sub> are hydrogen;

L is CH<sub>2</sub>;

A is



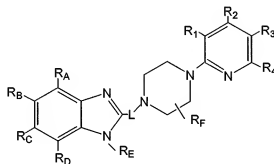
; and

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each hydrogen.

93. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 92 that is 2-[(4-pyrimidin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

94. n,

96. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each hydrogen;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydroxy;

L is CH<sub>2</sub>;

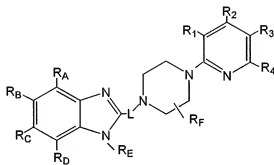
R<sub>A</sub>, R<sub>B</sub>, R<sub>C</sub> and R<sub>D</sub> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

R<sub>F</sub> and R<sub>E</sub> are hydrogen.

97. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 96 that is 6-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-ol.

100. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkylsulfonylamino;

L is CH<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>F</sub> and R<sub>E</sub> are hydrogen; and

R<sub>A</sub>, R<sub>B</sub>, R<sub>C</sub> and R<sub>D</sub> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen.

101. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 100 wherein

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each hydrogen; and

R<sub>1</sub> is alkylsulfonylamino;

**102.** (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 101 that is N-{2-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-yl}methanesulfonamide.

103. – 113. Cancelled